

LONGNEY AND EPNEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 18 NOVEMBER 2013

A MEETING OF LONGNEY AND EPNEY PARISH COUNCIL was held on Monday 18 November 2013, at 8pm at Longney School

PRESENT: Cllrs. Finzi, Godwin, Harvie, Williams, and Wingrove; County Cllr. Blackburn; District Cllr. Miles; PC Faye Jones; and five residents

APOLOGIES: District Cllr. Littleton

DECLARATION OF INTEREST IN ANY MATTER ON THE AGENDA: None

THE MINUTES of the meeting of Monday 16 September 2013 were agreed and signed as a true record of the meeting

MATTERS ARISING:

EPNEY TELEPHONE BOX: Now being repaired/maintained by a group of Epney residents

LITTER PICKING: No reply had been received from letters sent to McDonalds. Braintree Council had been contacted concerning their posters/publicity material re litter. A litter picking day has been suggested, the collected material could be gathered in one place and photographed and the Citizen could be contacted to publicise the results of the event

HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE: Apologies had been received from GCC for a representative being unavailable to attend the meeting. The dip in the road at Lapperditch will be repaired in the near future. Roadside markers will be audited and repaired/replaced where appropriate. The machine for Community Speedwatch is unavailable at present, but could be available in 2014

OIL PURCHASE SCHEME: Only six responses have been received so far, which is too few to start a scheme, but this is being opened to residents of Elmore in the hope of achieving a large enough number to make a scheme worthwhile. Further publicity will remind residents to register an interest.

HMRC REGISTRATION FOR PAYE: The Clerk requested help with registration of the Parish Council for online PAYE returns

POLICE REPORT: PC Faye Jones reported on the recent high number of burglaries (16 in Longney and Elmore since 1 September), mainly of machinery and tools from outbuildings, across the Severn Vale. No named suspects or DNA had been collected although there had been no occurrences since 7 November when two arrests had been made in Gloucester from a van having been seen in Elmore. Victims should have been contacted by the Police whose presence in the area has been increased. Residents are recommended to secure their own property. Signs have been displayed in the area by the Police, and more are requested. The suggestion of siting cameras on all five canal bridges which control all access into the area between the canal and Severn was repeated. Longney School has been asked to assist in the monitoring of speeding motorists. Some monitoring has been done by the Police, with the result that no outstanding speed was observed. A letter will be sent to parents of School pupils reminding them of the speed limits. A representative of the Police and a Security Advisor from SDC will be attending the Coffee Morning at Longney Church on 30 November. The Chairman thanked PC Jones for her invaluable help in attending the meeting

PLANNING: Planning permission had been granted for: i) change of use from agricultural to office on land adjacent to Scotch Firs House, Longney; and ii) the erection of a single storey extension at Forest View, Longney. New planning applications had been received for: i) alterations to previously permitted scheme to replace two velux lights with dormer windows at Old

Ellis Stables, Longney; ii) the discharge of conditions on a previous application at the Grain Store, Epney; and iii) alterations to existing open fronted barn on land adjacent to Scotch Firs House

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT: Cllr. Blackburn reported that most of the £20,000 allocated to road repairs in the Severn Division has been spent; the 50mph speed limit on the A38 between Hardwicke and Claypits will go ahead in 2014; a request had been made for lights to be erected before the corner leading onto Fretherne Bridge on the road from Saul; a request had been made for 'road liable to icing' signs to be erected on Castle Lane parallel to the Canal; the Environment Agency revised Strategy is overdue; the latest news on Broadband is that it is not practicable to provide a better service in Longney or Elmore; there is a vacancy for a Governor at Longney School. The Chairman thanked Cllr Blackburn for giving his report

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT: Cllr. Miles reported that an additional 2250 houses have been added to the previous allocation at Hunts Grove; money has been allocated by SDC for badger vaccination in the District; the possibility of Gloucestershire becoming a unitary authority is being considered by SDC and GCC. Cllr. Miles has contact with the Area Manager of McDonalds, who will offer staff to assist in litter clearing campaigns. Cllr. Miles was thanked by the Chairman for his input to the meeting

NEW SEVERN ESTUARY FLOOD RISK STRATEGY: The new Strategy, due in October, is now expected by February. The intention is to provide flood defence for 40/50 years, but this depends upon finances being available. The EA is unlikely to be able to provide maintenance during the next financial year. Self-help will become necessary to save further cost the following year. A new map showing properties liable to flooding has been prepared.

CORRESPONDENCE:

LETTER OFFERING COMPANIONSHIP/HOME HELP TO THE ELDERLY: This is a private service and the enquiry will be dealt with by Cllr Godwin

SDC - PARISH AND TOWN COUNCIL MEETING 7 JANUARY 2014: Councillors are now aware of this meeting

GCC - P&T NEWSLETTER: Appropriate information will be shown on the Parish Council website

GAPTC - FREE TRAINING DAYS: The Chairman suggested that Councillors should look at what is offered

NHS GLOUCESTERSHIRE - NHS 111 SERVICE: Information has been displayed on notice boards and will be added to the Parish Council website

PRECEPT 2014/2015: Discussed and agreed that this will remain at £3950 (Clerk's fee and expenses 2500; Insurance 200; GAPTC Sub. 70; Playing field rent 50; Election 253; Newsletter 250; Computer replacement 200; Wireless connection 215; Miscellaneous 212). It is estimated that the Clerk's fee and expenses will exceed £2500 this year but they have fluctuated between £2314 in 2011/12 and £2707 in 2010/11, and have always otherwise been below their estimated £2500, but are only likely to increase. The Insurance cost is expected to increase again next year but the other figures are likely to be about the same as before and 'miscellaneous' does not normally account for the full amount estimated

MANAGING THE CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED: A reduction in the amount of correspondence circulated to Councillors has been agreed

SDC WORKING TOGETHER - CHARTER: Cllr Godwin will deal with the registration of this

VILLAGE PLAN:

a) **GARDEN GROUP/EQUIPMENT:** No further information

b) **HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE:** Dealt with under matters arising

- c) **OIL PURCHASE SCHEME:** Dealt with under matters arising
- d) **WEBSITE:** Information to be added noted elsewhere in these minutes
- e) **NEWSLETTER:** Working satisfactorily - edited/printed by The Revd. Andrew James

ELECTORS' FORUM: Mr Kent asked whether the Parish Council is in support of applications for residential property outside the settlement boundary, and made a request for particular concerns to be clarified in respect of road safety issues in connection with any planning application. Mr Smith asked whether there would be an Electors' Forum at every Parish Council meeting. It is agreed that 10 minutes will be allowed at each future meeting. Mr Buckle asked whether Allotments Lane could be less accessible to curb anti-social behaviour/litter/fly tipping which has recently been happening there. Severn Trent Water will be contacted as this provides access to their pumping station

OTHER MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION:

RUNNERS/CYCLISTS IN GROUPS: The increased occurrence of groups of runners and cyclists using local roads has been logged with the Police. It was suggested that efforts should be made to find out which club(s) are involved

HELP FOR THE PARISH COUNCIL: An offer from a local resident had been passed on by the Village Agent to help with the Parish Council if Councillors can find appropriate tasks. Discussed and left for further consideration

STATIONERY: Councillors agreed to the signing of a cheque value £27.50 for two replacement ink cartridges for the Parish Council printer

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: The next meeting of Longney and Epney Parish Council will take place at 8.00pm on Monday 20 January 2014 at Longney School

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 9.39p.m.